

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
PO Box 193766
San Francisco, Calif. 94119-3766



CONTACT:

Stanley P. Stephenson (415) 975-4373
Nancy A. Treadwell (415) 975-4403
Internet address: <http://stats.bls.gov/ro9news.htm>
Fax-On-Demand (415) 975-4567 Code: #9150

BLS 01-59
FOR RELEASE:
Thursday, August 16, 2001

PORTLAND-SALEM CONSUMER PRICES UP 0.9 PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2001—2.7 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the Portland metropolitan area rose 0.9 percent in the first half of 2001 according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson said an advancing housing index and higher medical care prices were largely responsible for the overall increase. Compared to the same period a year ago, prices increased 2.7 percent. The area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 181.2 (1982-84=100) during the first half of 2001. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100 in 1982-84 would have cost \$181.20 during the past six months. Local CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

The overall housing index rose 1.5 percent during the first half of 2001, providing the greatest contribution to the all items index, and advanced 3.2 percent from the same period in 2000. In the past six months, the shelter component of housing advanced 1.1 percent, fuels and utilities increased 2.6 percent, and household furnishings and operations rose 1.2 percent. Compared to a year ago, shelter advanced 3.4 percent, fuels and utilities increased 5.0 percent, and household furnishings and operations dipped 0.6 percent. Costs of utility natural gas, a subcategory of household fuels, jumped 9.6 percent in the past six months and 21.2 percent in the past 12 months.

Medical care prices increased 5.2 percent in the last six months, the largest percentage gain of all eight major expenditure categories. Despite medical care expenditures making up a relatively small portion of the average consumer's budget, this increase made medical care category the second largest contributor to overall price change. Compared to the first half of 2000, medical care costs are up 10.7 percent in the Portland metropolitan area, an annual gain not matched since January 1983.

The overall cost of food and beverages rose 0.4 percent in the first half of 2001. Grocery prices, represented by the food at home index, decreased 0.4 percent in the same period and measured 0.8 percent lower than 12 months ago. In the past six months, the cost of dining out, however, advanced 2.3 percent while prices paid for alcoholic beverages inched up 0.2 percent. Both of these categories were up 3.3 percent since the first half of 2000. For the past 12 months, the food and beverage index rose 0.6 percent.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index, which includes tobacco and smoking products, advanced 1.1 percent in the past six months and 2.0 percent over the year.

The education and communication index advanced 0.5 percent during the first half of 2001 and edged up 0.1 percent since the first half of 2000.

Recreation costs inched up 0.2 percent in the past six months and measured 1.2 percent higher in the past 12 months.

Apparel prices dipped down 0.2 percent during the first half of 2001, and are 0.8 percent below last year's level.

The overall transportation index moved down a slight 0.2 percent in the first half of 2001, but measured 3.6 percent higher for the past 12 months. Private transportation costs decreased 0.7 percent over the latest six-month period, but advanced 3.1 percent from the first half of 2000. Gasoline, after two years of price hikes, dropped 7.2 percent in the past six months. Compared to a year ago, gasoline prices rose 1.2 percent.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Portland-Salem, OR-WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2001 from-	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000
Expenditure category					
All items	176.4	179.5	181.2	2.7	0.9
All items (October 1967=100)	516.6	525.5	530.6	-	-
Food and beverages	158.2	158.6	159.2	0.6	0.4
Food	158.4	158.6	159.2	0.5	0.4
Food at home	156.4	155.8	155.1	-0.8	-0.4
Food away from home	162.2	163.8	167.6	3.3	2.3
Alcoholic beverages	156.3	161.0	161.4	3.3	0.2
Housing	176.6	179.6	182.3	3.2	1.5
Shelter	201.6	206.1	208.4	3.4	1.1
Rent of primary residence	188.3	190.7	193.8	2.9	1.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1)	209.5	212.6	215.9	3.1	1.6
Fuels and utilities	144.4	147.8	151.6	5.0	2.6
Fuels	115.8	120.7	123.6	6.7	2.4
Gas (piped) and electricity	142.6	147.5	152.1	6.7	3.1
Electricity	156.1	158.0	159.4	2.1	0.9
Utility natural gas service	107.8	119.2	130.7	21.2	9.6
Household furnishings and operations	122.3	120.2	121.6	-0.6	1.2
Apparel	135.7	134.9	134.6	-0.8	-0.2
Transportation	162.1	168.3	167.9	3.6	-0.2
Private transportation	162.3	168.5	167.3	3.1	-0.7
Motor fuel	137.8	150.4	139.6	1.3	-7.2
Gasoline (all types)	138.2	150.8	139.9	1.2	-7.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular (2).....	135.2	147.7	136.9	1.3	-7.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (2) (3).....	121.5	132.1	122.3	0.7	-7.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium (2).....	134.6	146.0	136.6	1.5	-6.4
Medical care	241.0	253.6	266.9	10.7	5.2
Recreation (4).....	101.6	102.6	102.8	1.2	0.2
Education and communication (4).....	101.6	101.2	101.7	0.1	0.5
Other goods and services	299.9	302.7	306.0	2.0	1.1

See footnotes at end of tables.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Portland-Salem, OR-WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2001 from-	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000
Commodity and service group					
All items	176.4	179.5	181.2	2.7	0.9
Commodities	149.2	150.7	150.3	0.7	-0.3
Commodities less food and beverages	144.7	146.8	145.8	0.8	-0.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	149.6	152.9	150.7	0.7	-1.4
Durables	133.8	134.3	135.0	0.9	0.5
Services	203.9	208.4	212.4	4.2	1.9
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	172.7	175.4	176.7	2.3	0.7
All items less shelter	167.5	170.1	171.4	2.3	0.8
Commodities less food	144.9	147.2	146.2	0.9	-0.7
Nondurables	153.4	155.4	154.5	0.7	-0.6
Nondurables less food	149.7	153.2	151.0	0.9	-1.4
Services less rent of shelter (1)	210.1	215.3	220.7	5.0	2.5
Services less medical care services	201.4	205.7	209.1	3.8	1.7
Energy	125.0	133.7	129.7	3.8	-3.0
All items less energy	183.0	185.7	187.9	2.7	1.2
All items less food and energy	189.1	192.4	195.1	3.2	1.4

1 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

2 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

3 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

4 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.